

The Mid-Shore Regional Council's Executive Board meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m. by Chairman Kurt Fuchs. Other Board members in attendance were Walter Chase, Gale Nashold, Jeff Ghrist and Dirck Bartlett. Also in attendance was Dorchester County Manager Jane Baynard and MSRC staff Terry Deighan and Scott Warner. Executive Board member Senator Richard Colburn joined the meeting via conference call.

Approval of May 19, 2011 Minutes

The first action item was approval of the May 19, 2011 Minutes. Mr. Bartlett made a motion to accept, that was seconded by Mr. Nashold and approved by unanimous consent.

The next action item was approval of the May 19, 2011 Closed Executive Session Minutes. Mr. Nashold made a motion to accept, Mr. Chase seconded the motion and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Financial Report

Next Chairman Fuchs presented the financial report in Treasurer Nelson's absence. He stated all expenditures are on track and asked for any questions. Being none, Mr. Bartlett made a motion to approve the report as presented, Mr. Nashold seconded the motion and the report was accepted into record unanimously.

Ratifications of electronic voting

Chairman Fuchs noted the next two items go together so they will both be explained and one motion will be made incorporating both items.

First is the ratification of electronic vote "Authorizing Resolution to file an application with the MTA for a FY12 MTA Coordination Grant". Chairman Fuchs explained the MSRC staff had received eight responses from the Executive Board for this vote and all were in "Support". He then stated that for the ratification of electronic vote "Resolution accepting MTA FY12 MTA Coordination Grant", the staff had received five responses from the Executive Board and again they were all in "Support". Upon hearing this information Mr. Chase made a motion to ratify both items, Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion and they were both ratified by unanimous consent.

Old Business

USDA Rural Development RBEG to support Shore Gourmet

Chairman Fuchs stated that on June 28, 2011 USDA Rural Development asked the MSRC if SG could utilize a \$15,000 grant, the funds would be Delaware RBEG funds. A proposal was submitted on July 3, 2011 for \$15,000; the budget time period would cover 10/1/11 to 11/30/11 and on July 22, 2011 the award letter was received.

Mr. Warner added that at the recommendation of Delegate Norm Conway, he and Shore Gourmet Board President Brad Powers have scheduled a meeting with Delaware Department of Agriculture Secretary Ed Kee to explain Shore Gourmet. Mr. Powers thought this was a good idea since Shore Gourmet is now working with producers in Delaware and selling Maryland and Delaware produced products to vendors in Delaware. Mr. Powers has know Secretary Kee for many years.

GeoDASH Initiative

Chairman Fuchs stated that the third year GeoDASH Initiative grant was submitted to EDA on July 11, 2011. Dr. Memo Diriker had to send a final form on August 24, 2011. The Tri-County Council for Western Maryland and Salisbury University are the lead applicants on this grant.

Letters sent by MSRC

Chairman Fuchs stated that two support letters that were previously approved by the Executive Board had been sent by the council. He informed the members that copies of the letters were in their packets.

The first was a letter of Support for the Rural Development Center; the UMES grant application was dated July 7, 2011.

The second letter was to the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) to reconsider the proposed toll increases dated July 29, 2011. The MSRC received a response letter from MDTA dated August 5, 2011. It also was included in the members' packets.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Mr. Warner informed the Board that the letter they approved requesting that the RMPIF be included in the State of Maryland's FY2013 budget was mailed to the Governor on July 29, 2011. A copy of the letter was included in their packets. The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland sent the first letter and requested that the other regional councils do the same. The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland have sent letters. In addition to the letters Mr. Warner also stated the marketing campaign is well underway utilizing handouts, a one pager and a dedicated website. In addition, a display booth has been designed and built and has been utilized at the MML Convention in Ocean City on June 27 and 28; the Septic Legislative Symposium organized by Maryland Farm Bureau and MACo, held at Chesapeake College on August 16; and the MACo Convention in Ocean City on August 18 and 19. Future venues that will feature the display are the Maryland Special Legislative Session in Annapolis October 17 thru 21 (proposed), the Maryland Rural Health Conference in Ocean City on November 3 and 4, the Maryland Farm Bureau Convention in Ocean City on December 4 thru 6, and the Maryland legislative session in Annapolis starting in January (proposed). He also stated that Senator Middleton held a meeting on August 30 at which time the Senator invited key Democratic leadership, Rural Maryland Council Interim Executive Director Mike Thielke, and Regional Council Executive Directors Wayne Clark, Mike Pennington, and himself.

Next Meetings

Chairman Fuchs stated the next full Mid-Shore Regional council meeting will be held at the Calhoun MEBA Engineering School on September 15, 2011 and begin at 9:00 a.m. It will include a presentation by Delmarva Poultry Industry Executive Director Bill Satterfield, a tour of MEBA, and conclude with lunch.

Mr. Fuchs also stated that MSRC and The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland will tour Dover Air Force Base on October 14, 2011, and information will be forthcoming about that trip.

New Business

MUST

DCS/DCT's Federal Transit Administration and the Veteran's Administration grant opportunity

Mr. Warner explained that the MSRC has been asked to provide a support letter for the grant listed above, and he is seeking permission to provide the letter. After reviewing the short document provided by Delmarva Community Services (DCS) explaining the grant, the Board was in complete agreement to allow the letter to be drafted and sent.

Advertising

Next, Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC/MUST will be ending the current relationship with Dinkins Communication as they did not fulfill their end of the agreement to find advertising for the buses. Preparation is in the works to find another advertising company and the new MTA representative Jim Raszewski has provided leads of companies that handle bus advertising and he has offered to assist in the process of finding a new company. Mr. Warner did state that ending the relationship with Dinkins Communications would come at no cost to the MSRC.

New EDA Economic Development Specialist for Maryland

Mr. Warner stated that our EDA representative Debra Beavin's last day was August 26 and Alma Plummer is the new specialist for Maryland. Since Ms. Plummer's 3-year tenure with EDA, she has had the opportunity to support economic activities for Maryland and we look forward to working with her.

EDA request for hurricane damage assessment

Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC office was contacted by EDA in Philadelphia who was contacted by EDA Headquarters requesting information on specific regional impacts that affected the ecosystem due to floods, electrical service outages, mud & tree debris, etc. that was caused by the weather disturbance known as Irene. EDA would like an account of the

region's impact regarding business corridors, infrastructure, transportation corridors, etc. as soon as possible. The MSRC received this request on August 30 and sent it that morning to the three County Administrator/Managers' offices. The MSRC received an e-mail from Caroline County Department of Emergency Services Director Bryan Ebling that afternoon and then forwarded the provided information to EDA on the morning of August 31. Yesterday, Ms. Baynard sent Dorchester County's assessment to Mr. Warner which was forwarded to EDA right away. The MSRC is still waiting on information from Talbot County.

Other matters

Chairman Fuchs stated a Septic Symposium was held at Chesapeake College on August 16 sponsored jointly by Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. and the Maryland Association of Counties. The impetus for the symposium was legislation introduced during the 2011 General Assembly Session that would have severely impacted the ability to build on well and septic, particularly detrimental to rural Maryland. The event was well-attended by a wide variety of stakeholders and was intended to present a balanced description of the issue.

He also noted the Governor's effort to create a statewide development plan, *Plan Maryland*, whose original draft has been out for comment since early spring. After a tremendous amount of comments from the public and local government officials alike, a new draft has been scheduled for release on September 7, accompanied by an additional 60-day comment period. Mr. Fuchs stated that PlanMD is a new intrusion by state regulators into local planning and zoning by way of further designating the "proper" areas for growth (both residential and economic). Through the proposed plan, Maryland Department of Planning and the Governor's Smart Growth Subcabinet will be given significant say over the State's capital expenditures via the *PlanMD Consistency Process*. He wanted to make sure these important issues were on everyone's radars because of their potential to profoundly impact the region. Senator Colburn suggested that all local planning authorities re-examine their Priority Funding Areas. Ms. Baynard added that Plan Maryland will be coming to the Dorchester County Council meeting on September 20 and everyone is invited to attend.

Member comments/requests

Mr. Ghrist suggested that the MSRC should send a support letter regarding the replacement of the Dover Bridge, if it has not already done so. Once drafted it should be sent to Governor O'Malley copying the State Highway Administrator, and U.S. Senators and Congressman representing the district. Mr. Warner stated that the MSRC would get the letter out directly.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m. by unanimous consent.